

Title: Need to include the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the plight of lakhs of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh who have been denied the opportunity of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Fishermen in many states like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala have been given this opportunity. But for the last 40 years, in spite of their fighting for the inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they have not been given this opportunity. They have been leading a very pathetic life in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Various Committees and Commissions have recommended that the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The State Government have also recommended for the same but till now nothing has happened.

I request the Government to do justice for the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh. When we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, poor fishermen of one State should not be denied this opportunity. Therefore, I request the Government that they must do justice as they had done to the fishermen of other States of the country.